

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02908 120733Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TE L AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC HONO HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2908

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: XF CH EG IS IZ JO SY UR SOPN

SUBJ: REFERENCE NEWS COVERAGE OF SADAT VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH OVERT PRC MEDIA HAVE GIVEN SLIGHT AND BELATED ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AND ITS AFTERMATH, THE RESTRICTED-CIRCULATION DAILY COMPILATION OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS REFERENCE NEWS (TSAN-KAO HSIAO-HSI)( HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO IT. IN THREE ISSUES OF THE PAPER ACQUIRED BY USLO DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 2, THE SADAT VISIT IS THE FEATURED FRONT-PAGE ITEM AND ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY 50 PERCENT OF THE ARTICLES IN THE PAPER. REFERENCE NEWS PROVIDES FULL COVERAGE OF ALL ARAB POSITIONS ON THE VISIT, BUT DISPLAYS A SLIGHT EDITORIAL BIAS IN FAVOR OF SADAT. END SUMMARY.

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2. ALTHOUGH OVERT PRC MEDIA HAVE GIVEN SLIGHT AND BELATED ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AND ITS AFTERMATH, REFERENCE NEWS HAS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO ITS 9 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS. IN NOVEMBER 23, NOVEMBER 27, AND DECEMBER 2 ISSUES ACQUIRED BY USLO (COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND HONG KONG), THE FRONT PAGE IS DOMINATED BY STORIES RELEAANT TO THE SADAT MISSION AND SOME 50 PERCENT OF ALL

STORIES PERTAIN TO IT.

3. THE ENTIRETY OF THE FRONT PAGE IN THE NOVEMBER 23 ISSUE IS DEVOTED TO COVERAGE OF THE VISIT TO ISRAEL IN AP, UP, AFP AND REUTERS REPORTS. INSIDE PAGES CONTAIN STORIES ON SADAT'S CONVERSATION WITH KNESSET LEADERS; STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE VISIT BY SYRIA, LIBYA, ALGERIA, IRAQ, AND THE PLO INCLUDING CHARACTERIZATION OF SADAT AS A "RENEGADE"; THE NIMEIRY TRIP TO EGYPT; OFFICIAL JORDANIAN SUPPORT FOR SADAT; AND ANTI-SADAT DEMONSTRATIONS BY ARAB STUDENTS IN MOSCOW (TOGETHER WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS ARE RARELY PERMITTED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES).

4. THE LEAD ARTICLE IN THE NOVEMBER 27 ISSUE DEALS WITH THE APPEAL BY AMMAN RADIO FOR ARAB UNITY IN THE WAKE OF THE SADAT TRIP. A MAJOR ARTICLE FEATURED ON PAGE THREE CONTAINS ANALYSIS OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT THAT IT COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE "UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER" ENGENDERED BY SADAT'S VISIT.

5. THE DECEMBER 2 REFERENCE NEWS FRONTPAGES A USIS REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 30 ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE DEALING WITH THE SADAT VISIT. PROMINENT IN THIS ARTICLE IS PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRAISE FOR THE "COURAGE AND GENUINE LEADERSHIP ABILITY" OF SADAT AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF THE VISIT AS A "GREAT ACHIEVEMENT". OTHER STORIES IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUE NOTE SOVIET REFUSAL OF THE EGYPTIAN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE PRIOR TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ANALYZE THE SOVIET DECISION TO "HANDLE SADAT CAUTIOUSLY" AND "LET THE ARABS CALL THE TUNE".

6. COMMENT: REFLECTING THE PRC'S OWN PLICY DILEMMA IN HANDLING OF THE SADAT VISIT, REFERENCE NEWS OPTED FOR FULL AND RELATIVELY UNSLANTED COVERAGE. NEVERTHELESS, A SLIGHT PRO-SADAT BIAS IS BETRAYED IN THE FREQUENCY AND PROMINENCE OF REFERENCES TO HIS "COURAGE" AND "HEROISM". MOREOVER, THE ARTICLES NOTING SOVIET OPPOSITION TO AND DISCONFITURE WITH THE MISSION ARE SURELY CALCULATED TO TIP OFF THE CHINESE READER THAT THE PRC LEADERSHIP APPROVES OF SADAT'S GAMBLE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009